

Use of animal fat for cheap ghee

3228. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that animal fat of even dead animals is being used to prepare cheap ghee in many districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) how Government propose to check this menace from spreading to other parts of the country;

(c) whether any case, due to its ill-effects, has come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, whether Government would appoint a committee to enquire the ill-effects of consumption of such products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No such specific report has been received in this Ministry. However, a press report had appeared in a newspaper which was referred to Food (Health) Authority, Uttar Pradesh who is implementing PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder in that State to take immediate action under the provisions of the said Act/Rules and launch a special drive to detect such cases of adulteration in ghee.

The Food (Health) Authorities of all other States/UTs in the country have also been advised to take similar action under the provisions of the said PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 in their respective States/UTs.

(c) and (d) No case due to its ill-effects has been reported to this Ministry.

PDS benefits to APL and BPL population in Jharkhand

†3239. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons living above as well as below poverty line in Jharkhand benefiting from Public Distribution System under Antyodaya Anna Yojana during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of fair price shops for distribution of foodgrains to these beneficiaries; and

(c) the procedure adopted by Government to monitor the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) details received from the Government of Jharkhand for March, 2007, total 5,5,484 families have been issued APL ration cards and 23,94,000 families have been issued BPL ration cards. Out of 23,94,000 BPL families, 7,26,800 families have been covered under AAY.

(b) The number of fair price shops in Jharkhand State is 14,406.

(c) Identification of eligible families under TPDS, issuing of ration cards, distribution of foodgrains through FPS and monitoring are done by the State Government. Government of India gets reports from State Governments on implementation of TPDS and reviews the status in meetings from time to time.

The Jharkhand State Government has directed its all Deputy Commissioners to keep strict vigilance and monitor the functioning of the fair price shops through regular inspection of the shops to ensure proper distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries.

Sugar production

3240. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is expecting to witness a bumper production of sugar, over 250 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 season;

(b) whether, after meeting domestic demand of about 190 lakh tonnes, Government propose to give any incentives to poor farmers and sugar producers as well as export subsidy to sugar mills;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for the Price Sensitive Communities?